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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR FLOOD: As long...they can't go over the lid. I mean, every school district in my county is at their \$1.05 lid. I mean, nobody has exceeded that, so you cannot increase taxes to pay for this. So the answer would be no.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. So, in effect, all this allows is a restricted opportunity to use money that you can now collect from taxpayers to issue bonds, rather than pay it directly. And you cannot use more than 5 percent of your restricted fund budget for this purpose. Is...would that be a fair characterization of...?

SENATOR FLOOD: Yes, Senator, that would be fair. In any given year, your debt service cannot exceed 5 percent of your restricted funds for the fiscal year that you're going into.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. Thank you very much, Senator.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. On with discussion. Senator Kopplin.

SENATOR KOPPLIN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I have a few concerns with this amendment. Actually, I'm in favor of the amendment, of allowing the NRDs to be a part of this. I don't know why we would not. But when you take one out, it happens to be mine, and I think the reference when the discussion was going on was that, well, senators didn't think it needed to be. I'm sorry, I wasn't privy to that conversation. I definitely think it should. I think the reason it was taken out had to do with a few landowners, perhaps in Washington County...no, not perhaps, let's be honest about it...a few landowners in Washington County. I understand part of their thinking. I don't understand it all because the Papio NRD does great things in flood control. They have a long way to go with Papio Creek, and it needs to be considered. But my biggest concern is, hey, if this bill is good public policy for the state of Nebraska, then it's good public policy for every entity in Nebraska. And to exclude the Papio NRD because of a few objections from landowners, and to try to pass it off as that we have a lot of money so we don't need to be in this, that just doesn't make sense. And I'm afraid I can't support this